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## From the Editors

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**Professor Stuart Gatehouse, 1950–2007**  
Photo courtesy of Julie Lamont Ltd, Bothwell, Glasgow, U.K.

This issue of *Trends in Amplification* is a tribute to the contributions of Stuart Gatehouse in the fields of amplification and aural rehabilitation. Stuart was a scientist of international standing whose basic and clinical research at the MRC Institute of Hearing Research in Glasgow, Scotland, influenced clinical practice of audiology across the world. His research and that of his colleagues on acclimatization to hearing aids, candidature, auditory ecology, the measurement of hearing aid benefit and outcomes, and nonaudiological aspects important to hearing aid users have all opened new areas of research that now influence how hearing aids are prescribed and how outcomes are evaluated. His elegant research designs have also served as a model for translational research in audiology.

This issue was conceived as a *festschrift* in memory of Stuart Gatehouse. The first group of articles outlines Stuart's life and some of his accomplishments. The opening article, by Michael Akeroyd, records Stuart's career and some of his contributions. Mark Haggard's article reflects on Stuart's personal qualities, describing some of the expertise and interests that led to his outstanding successes in both science and influencing policy. The third article, by Dianne van Tasell and Harry Levitt, further discusses his legacy in linking scientific and clinical research, advising on health policy, and convening and contributing to international conferences.

The second group of articles is concerned with research topics of particular importance to Stuart. Kevin Munro provides a review of auditory acclimatization, covering both the seminal studies by Stuart and his colleagues as well as subsequent psychophysical and physiological experiments from other groups. Brian Moore reviews the choice of fast versus slow compression, summarizing the experimental evidence for choosing one or the other, and he also focuses on the implications of an important study by Stuart and his colleagues that looked at the relative benefits to different individuals. William Noble also considers

this experiment and the importance of individual differences to candidacy as part of a wider discussion of Stuart's interests in someone's everyday listening demands and how they could be assessed by self-assessment questionnaires. Pauline Smith, Angela Mack, and Adrian Davis report the clinical effectiveness and efficiency of a new development in audiological service: an "assess and fit" appointment with a nonpersonalized, open-canal fitting. Their demonstration of gains in outcome and efficiency with this—as well as an advantage to bilateral fitting—would have been of great interest to Stuart.

The final pair of articles report two projects that Stuart was working on before his death and suggest some directions that he might have pursued had he lived. The article by Stig Arlinger and his colleagues across Europe (Stuart Gatehouse, Jürgen Kiessling, Graham Naylor, Hans Verschurre, Jan Wouters) describes the design of a multicenter, multinational project to evaluate the benefits of bilateral versus unilateral fitting of hearing aids. The final article, written by Michael Akeroyd, but to which Stuart is rightly the first author, reports the results of an experiment that Stuart designed to measure the effects of attention in a complex listening situation.

We hope that this issue of the journal will serve to highlight for readers the scientific contributions of Stuart Gatehouse in the areas of amplification and aural rehabilitation. His name will always be synonymous with hearing aid research of the highest quality and a hearing scientist of the highest integrity. He once commented that his research "alters the way that people go about their clinical lives." Stuart did far more than most of us will ever do to attain this goal: His influence on clinical practice will be felt for years to come.

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